



Working for Minnesota's Businesses

Senator Franken has made it a top priority to ensure that Minnesota businesses have the resources they need to thrive, create jobs, and drive the recovery of America's economy. He has a proven track record of fighting to ensure that businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need, and has successfully cut red tape to make it easier for Minnesota businesses to deal with the federal government.

Getting Things Done for Minnesota Businesses

- In 2009, the Brown family auto dealership in Faribault was targeted by General Motors to lose its franchise, putting the dealership – and the 75 jobs it supports - in jeopardy. Sen. Franken intervened on the dealership's behalf and **successfully prevailed upon GM to allow the Brown dealership to keep its franchise.**
- Sen. Franken successfully championed medical device legislation that allows the FDA to tap a deeper well of expertise from the medical device industry, making the FDA approval process faster and safer. He also successfully fought to **shelve FDA rules that could have increased overly burdensome paperwork** for companies by as much as 300 percent and caused even more delays.
- In negotiations over the health care reform law, Sen. Franken **fought – and successfully cut by half – a proposed tax on medical devices** that would have placed an unfair burden on Minnesota's medical device companies. He supports a full repeal of the tax and is continuing his fight to eliminate it in a fiscally responsible way.
- In 2011, Sen. Franken launched the "Back to Work Minnesota" initiative, which works to **create jobs and cut energy costs for businesses by facilitating retrofitting projects.** The program has successfully launched a number of retrofitting projects, with many more in the pipeline.





Al Franken

U.S. Senator for Minnesota

Making Sure the Federal Government Works for our Businesses

- In 2011, Sen. Franken successfully **helped repeal the 1099 reporting requirement**, which would have required businesses to file paperwork on all transactions over \$600 – a task that small businesses across Minnesota said would be prohibitively burdensome. The repeal was signed into law.
- After hearing from businesses in Minnesota that were forced to wait for months to get paid by defense companies they subcontracted for, Sen. Franken introduced legislation to fix the problem. **The Obama Administration implemented Sen. Franken's provision, ensuring that Minnesota's small businesses get paid in a timely fashion.**
- Sen. Franken **supports the passage of a comprehensive, five-year Farm Bill**, which provides stability to farms and rural businesses all over Minnesota.
- Sen. Franken supports main street businesses and is a co-sponsor of the Marketplace Fairness Act, which would **end the unfair advantage that online-only retailers have over brick-and-mortar retailers.**

Preparing Our Workforce to Meet the Needs of Minnesota Businesses

- Sen. Franken knows that we need to make smart investments in our workers – and our students – so that our **workforce is prepared to fill the jobs that are available now and in the decades to come.**
- The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) reports that nearly half of Minnesota's manufacturers have job openings they can't fill because they can't find employees with the skills they need.
 - In order to close this skills gap, Sen. Franken has been fighting to **reauthorize and fully fund the Workforce Investment Act**, which finances training for workers across Minnesota.
 - Sen. Franken knows that many of today's manufacturing jobs are good-paying, high-skilled positions. He has brought manufacturers from all over Minnesota into area schools to **encourage kids to pursue manufacturing careers.**
- Sen. Franken is working hard to make sure **our students are prepared for the jobs of the 21st century.** Because 16 of the 20 fastest growing jobs in Minnesota require training in the STEM fields – science, technology, engineering, and math – Sen. Franken has made it a top priority to improve STEM education for our nation's students. He has introduced the **STEM Master Teacher Corps Act** to provide incentives to the nation's best STEM teachers, who would in turn serve as mentors to other educators.